

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Change of command

Maj. Lester Weilacher will assume command of the 31st Comptroller Squadron from Lt. Col. Carol Giachetti, 12:30 p.m. Monday at La Bella Vista. The 31st Comptroller Squadron will be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the ceremony. For emergency service, call 335-560-1241.

Induction ceremony

The 31st Fighter Wing is hosting the 2005 Senior NCO Induction Ceremony Banquet Aug. 5. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. David Torelli at Ext. 8021 or your unit First Sergeant to purchase tickets.

CCAF graduation

In order to graduate with the Community College of the Air Force October 2005 class, students need to have all updates to CCAF by Aug. 26. For more information, call Yvette Simons at Ext. 5331.

Office closure

The Civilian Personnel Office will be closed 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. July 22 for an office function.

COMUSAFE honored for support of enlisted force

By Master Sgt.
Mona Ferrell

U.S. Air Forces in
Europe News Service

Whether looking at Combat Education, the high-energy events of Project CHEER, or the countless quality of life initiatives we've enjoyed over the past 23 months, the total dedication and passionate concern U.S. Air Forces in Europe's commander has had for our enlisted Airmen and their families is readily apparent, said the USAFE command chief master sergeant recently.

"I don't know of another officer that has done more for our enlisted corps, and the entire Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, USAFE command chief master sergeant. "It's amazing once you drill down – both on a strategic and tactical level – what our commander has done to support the enlisted force under his command."

And, it's because of this support that the USAFE enlisted corps will bestow its highest honor on Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander, when he's inducted into the command's Order



Airman 1st Class Desiree Palacios

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Commander Gen. Robert "Doc" Foglesong sits in the cockpit of an F-16 aircraft.

of the Sword during a ceremony here Aug. 26.

Since taking the USAFE Flag in August 2003, General Foglesong's commitment to the development of the enlisted force has been evident, said Chief Coleman.

"Take Combat Education for instance; the number one reason young people enlist in the Air Force is to continue their education...knowing that it's often difficult for members (such as those who deploy and shift workers) to attend college

classes, General Foglesong saw a need to institute this combat program to remove barriers that hinder the enlisted force from receiving a higher education," he said.

"Since the program's inception, nearly 50 percent of all college classes are taught during non-standard times throughout the command, and more than 15 percent of all classes are offered outside of traditional classroom locations. Now, college enrollments are up by more than 11 percent; I'd call that a success."

But, the focus on an enlisted education didn't stop with Combat Education. USAFE University, conceived and put into motion by General Foglesong, provides an umbrella for more than 600 educational courses and programs available to members within the command, said Chief Coleman.

"The most fundamental service we provide to our Airmen is the opportunity to improve themselves professionally and personally – and General Foglesong understands this," said Chief Coleman.

"The prime directive of

See Sword, page 8 —

National Kids Day: The Aviano Community Center is hosting an afternoon of fun and games 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 5.

Aviano Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1720.3	722
ahead/behind	89.4	11
555th FS goal	632.8	432
ahead/behind	7.9	-2
510th FS goal	1087.5	290
ahead/behind	81.5	13



STEPPing up!

One Aviano member receives a surprise visit from the 31st Fighter Wing leadership - and a surprise promotion to go with it.

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Dental clinic

Aviano's dental clinic, the fourth largest in U.S. Air Forces in Europe, strives to set the standard in dental health care.

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U.S. Air Forces in Europe

Airman Information File

Get organized for success

As Airmen serving in the profession of arms, we realize and understand the importance of being organized -- it could mean the difference between mission success and failure. Our nation depends on us to be ready to fight and postured to respond anywhere at a moment's notice. With the dynamic and unconventional nature of today's worldwide threat, we cannot afford to wait until after we're called to action to get organized -- it could be too late!

Organization skills are critical to successful mission execution and also serve to reduce stress in our daily life. The fast-paced Air Force mission demands outstanding organization at every level. It helps us become more efficient and effective -- on and off duty.

Workplace disorganization directly affects the mission and its impact can be catastrophic. Some effects of disorganization include Airmen deploying downrange without the right equipment, engines damaged by tools left behind, critical documents are lost, and valuable ideas are not captured -- effects that put our Airmen at risk. Do your part to eliminate these symptoms; take time to get organized, pay attention to detail, develop a personal organization system, and always use your Wingman to back you up!

Your home can be a hotbed of

disorganization and it can cost you time and money. Military members and their families experience first-hand the importance of keeping their critical documents like passports, wills, birth certificates, adoption papers, and marriage certificates safely stored and easily accessible -- especially during a PCS or extended TDY. Your efforts will alleviate the burden of having to search for these in the midst of a stressful situation.

Being organized at home also means ensuring your finances are in order. Leave, extended TDY, and PCS moves often result in additional expenses -- both planned and unplanned. Make sure you have a financial plan, keep accurate records, and set some money aside for the unexpected. Whether a flight cancels, a car needs emergency repairs, or a wallet is stolen your efforts will inevitably pay dividends when you need it the most!

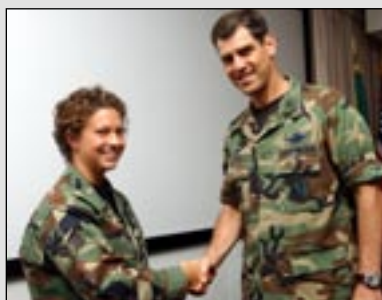
Edmund Burke said "good order is the foundation of all things." Lay a solid foundation professionally and personally by getting organized. It takes effort and perseverance, but in the long run, it will save us time, improve efficiency, and enable safe execution of the mission, as well as those things we enjoy while off duty. Head down the path to success -- get organized!



Gen. Robert H. Foglesong, right, is the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander while Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, left, is the USAFE command chief master sergeant. USAFE is an Air Force major command and the air component of the U.S. European command. Its headquarters is located at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. USAFE accomplishes its mission with its 16 installations, five of which are main operating bases situated across Europe. The command consists of about 73,000 people, including 26,000 active-duty Airmen.


General Doc Foglesong


CMSgt Gary Coleman



Brig. Gen. Robert Yates presents a coin to his shadow Airmen Airman 1st Class Crystal Kemery.

Aviano Airman of the Week

Name: Airman 1st Class Kemery
Unit: 31st Medical Support Squadron, dental assistant
Hometown: Port Charlotte, FL.
Hobbies: Photography, watersports, working out and traveling Europe

Why Joined: To serve her country and maximize educational benefits. Airman Kemery is currently pursuing a nursing degree.

Accomplishments: Airman Kemery was selected because of her solid performance in the dental clinic. She takes pride in duty to her country, is a consummate team player and no job is too small or too large for her to handle.

F-16 pilots support troops on the battlefield

**By Senior Airman
Shaun Emery**

*332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs*

In an instant they are gone, but the 510th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron's F-16 Fighting Falcons can be found in the Iraqi sky providing air support for members fighting against insurgents on the ground.

The 510th EFS provides support for ground commanders countrywide. These tasks include close-air support, shows of force, reconnaissance and scouring the countryside for insurgents.

But their mission begins on the ground with operations Airmen handling preflight briefings, mission planning, intelligence reports and detailed coordination with the Army. Pilots inspect their aircraft before takeoff, working hand-in-hand with skilled maintainers to ensure each mission goes off without a hitch.

While the "stick and rudder" flying aspect has not changed, some sorties find these pilots using their weapons system in nontraditional ways, such as convoy escort, raid support and infrastructure reconnaissance.

Pilots tackle these missions with the same vigor as the 510th's bread and butter -- close-air support -- said Maj. John Bosone, 510th EFS assistant director of operations.

"We were well prepared for this mission," he said. "We train, exercise and tactically integrate with our Army counterparts every day back home."

"We train to take out fixed targets defended by surface-to-air and air-to-air defenses," said 1st Lt. Christopher Jones, an F-16 pilot.

Although challenging, engaging fixed targets is not nearly as rewarding as supporting American and coalition forces on the ground, he said.

"During interdiction missions, the nearest friendly forces may be hundreds of miles away," Major Bosone said. "In (close-air support), our guys may be within hundreds of feet of the enemy."

Fortunately for troops on the ground, the Air Force has equipped its aircraft with the latest technology for dropping precision-guided munitions, Lieutenant Jones said.

"We have some of the most advanced capabilities at our disposal," he said. "Our success comes from realistic training, hard work, fantastic equipment, and sometimes, just making a lot of noise."

"We are involved in major operations here," Major Bosone said. "But we are just a small part of this important mission."

"I am proud of the work we have done so far, and I look forward to supporting the operation in the future," Lieutenant Jones said.



Senior Airman Shaun Emery

First Lt. Christopher Jones, 510th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, completes an inspection of his aircraft before departure. Pilots work alongside maintainers to ensure each mission goes off without a hitch. Using the training they receive at their home stations, pilots are using their weapons systems to provide convoy escort, raid support and infrastructure reconnaissance for troops on the ground.

Life-threatening emergency?: Call the Italian authorities by dialing 118. For on-base emergencies, dial 911.

Focus on Combat and Special Interest Programs

Hidden Heroes

Hidden Heroes is a program designed to increase volunteerism throughout USAFE by identifying volunteer opportunities and encouraging active duty, DoD civilian, and eligible family members throughout the command to serve as volunteers on base and in their surrounding communities. It will also recognize volunteers for the significant contributions they make to improve their base and local community.

To recognize a volunteer in your organization, e-mail their information to vgileer@aviano.af.mil.

Base water labeled safe to consume

According to the Consumer Confidence Report produced by the 31st Medical Group's Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, the water on base is safe to drink and there are no health issues related to drinking water. The CCR is produced to meet Air Force Instruction water-quality reporting requirements.

The base's CCR has been approved for release, and base officials have distributed the report to all military dormitory residents and the housing office. The report is also available on the 31st Medical Group public World Wide Web site at: [https://mednet/2004CCRFinal%20\(English\).doc](https://mednet/2004CCRFinal%20(English).doc).

The report details the sources of the base's drinking water and any contaminants that may be

present in the drinking water. This year's report covers results from drinking water surveillance conducted during calendar years 2003 and 2004.

Aviano Air Base, due to its many geographically separated areas, receives drinking water from five different wells. This aquifer water is the primary source of water for each system.

Public inquiries and additional information regarding this report can also be obtained by contacting the Aviano Public Affairs office. Copies of this report can be obtained from Public Affairs, Bioenvironmental Engineering, or the Base Library. Call the Bioenvironmental Engineering office at 0434-30-5532 or Ext. 5532 for questions regarding the report. (31st Medical Group)



Airman 1st Class Scherrie Gates

Just a stepping stone

Staff Sgt. Sarah Benton, 31st Medical Support Squadron, receives her new stripes from Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander and Chief Master Sgt. Laten Williams, 31st Fighter Wing interim command chief. Sergeant Benton was selected for promotion to technical sergeant under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. "I was shocked and speechless

when I found out," said Sergeant Benton. "I knew the wing commander was coming but had no idea it was for me." The STEP program is designed to accommodate unique circumstances that, in the commander's judgment, clearly warrant promotion. It's intended to provide a means to promote Airmen for compelling, although perhaps not quantifiable, reason.

Reunion briefing: The Aviano Family Support Center offers reunion classes to spouses of deployed members 10 a.m. Mondays.

Force Shaping Phase Two evolves for fiscal 2006

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

The Air Force achieved its congressionally mandated active-duty end strength of 359,700 Airmen for fiscal 2005. The Air Force had exceeded that ceiling until now.

Force Shaping Phase II initiatives successfully reduced the overall size of the force; however, the Air Force still has more officers than authorized and Phase II will continue into the next fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1.

"We will now limit voluntary separation opportunities for active-duty enlisted Airmen, while maintaining voluntary programs for officers," said Brig. Gen. Glenn F. Spears, force management policy director on the director of personnel staff at the Pentagon.

"We met our goals to balance and reduce excesses in our enlisted force,

and we must continue to focus on shaping the officer force in size and skills," he said.

Two force-shaping initiatives for the enlisted force will be retained: the "Blue to Green" option and the career job reservation program.

"Airmen who do not wish to obtain a CJR or do not want to retrain may apply to transfer to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard via Palace Chase, transfer to the Army via the Blue to Green program, apply for opportunities in civil service or separate upon fulfillment of their enlistment," General Spears said.

For Air Force officers, force-shaping opportunities are still available and will continue until the Air Force meets its end strength numbers for 2006.

"We currently have more officers than allowed by law, particularly in the junior grades," General Spears

For the latest force-shaping opportunities available or for information about Operation Blue to Green, the Palace Chase program and force-shaping frequently asked questions, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape2.htm.

said. "This excess produces operational and fiscal costs -- it restricts their opportunities to serve and to develop as leaders in our force, and it takes dollars from other validated requirements. Therefore, we will continue to offer a variety of programs for these officers to voluntarily leave the Air Force. If there are insufficient volunteers, we will have to consider other options."



Airman 1st Class Scherrie Gates

Lending a hand

From left: Staff Sgts. Troy Gryga and Ben Swope, from the 182nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Peoria Air National Guard, repair a filter separator discharge automatic

valve. Sergeants Gryga and Swope are part of the 49-person team deployed here from Peoria Ill., in support of the 31st Liquid Fuels System Maintenance Flight.

Sword, from page 1

USAFE U. is to analytically focus on what we're doing in the USAFE education and training arena," said the chief. "The program generates career development learning experiences available at times and locations that meet Airmen's needs, enhances fulfillment of the command's combat program objectives and facilitates accomplishment of USAFE's mission. It not only benefits each USAFE member, but it enhances the command's overall mission."

Most of the programs that General Foglesong's implemented since taking command focus on year-round quality of life improvements. However, one program is designed specifically for the winter months; when family separation, inclement weather and holiday finances all add up to make life stressful.

Other combat and special interest programs have been extremely successful, and include;

Combat Intro/Exit

"At the tactical level, look at the program; it's designed to minimize the number of stops you have to make to in- and out-process a base and maximize your time on the job," he explained. "Virtual outprocessing has streamlined the permanent change of station process, eliminating 57 percent of office-stop requirements."

Combat Fitness

"It's a program implemented to focus

on developing and maintaining a fitness routine that keeps you physically fit," Chief Coleman said. "USAFE is number one in the Air Force with fewest at risk and least required to test. Additionally, we have experienced a 30 percent increase in Fitness Center usage."

Combat Nighthawk

"This program lashed-up company grade officers with senior noncommissioned officers and NCOs for night immersion into areas out of their normal duties," the chief said. "The results for our CGOs was a better appreciation for roles/responsibilities, bonding, mentoring, and leadership."

Hidden Heroes

"Organizing volunteer efforts and providing a forum to where people/organizations with a need for help can reach out to one source for assistance is programs goal," he said. "It also allows for formal recognition of those wonderful superstars who give their valuable time to help those in need."

Project SMART

"While I'm reluctant to brag on our Safety Program/record," he said. "I'll just say we're doing fantastic!"

Combat Touch

"Our chaplains are now out amongst our Airmen in an attempt to preempt the need to for members to go to the chapel," he explained. "General Foglesong has,

as the chief of USAFE chaplains recently stated: "...given more to the chaplaincy than anyone to his knowledge in the history of the Air Force chaplaincy".

Combat Care

"For our families he has implemented a number of initiatives like Combat Care," he added. "It's a program that assures our family members are cared for when members are deployed."

Project Wizard

"It's an organized effort that has placed attention and dedicated resources to a vital area of our communities that surface at critical times in our lives," the chief said. "It has made them all noticeably more responsive to today's Air Force families with more computers, books, and learning resources."

Additionally, the general was concerned about child care.

"He engaged the services and personnel staffs to find efficiencies in our system to better accommodate this ever increasing need for our families," Chief Coleman added. "This resulted in new facilities on the books, increased staffing at some locations, and hours/schedules adjusted to meet the schedules of our military members."

"In short, he's an incredible leader who has done great things for our enlisted Airmen," said Chief Coleman. "He is clearly deserving of our highest honor."

DENTAL ARTISTRY

What does George Washington, Hollywood stars and the people of Aviano have in common? Access to state-of-the-art (for their era) dental care. Airmen and family members of the 31st Fighter Wing, and other units are entitled to service at the Aviano Dental Clinic, the fourth largest dental clinic in U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

One part of the clinic is its laboratory services. Surrounded by equipment and working with material such as stone and porcelain, these Airmen create molds, crowns and other important devices needed to perfect people's teeth. Serving more than 10,000 customers, the clinic here ensures the global medical readiness of its beneficiaries. In simple terms? They make smiles here shine.



Chew on this: Tidbits about teeth

- Our first President, George Washington, did not have wooden teeth after all. A forensic anthropologist from the University of Pittsburgh visited the National Museum of Dentistry, which is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, and determined through laser scans that Washington's dentures (on display there) were made from gold, ivory, lead, human and animal teeth. Back in those days, horse and donkey teeth were common components of dentures. Can you say "neigh?"

- Braces have always had their turn in the Hollywood spotlight. In the *Brady Bunch*, Marcia had fake braces for one episode while Jan had the real things in several episodes. And little Cindy had them, too, in the final seasons. In the *Facts of Life*, Tutti wore braces, and sometimes head gear, for several seasons.

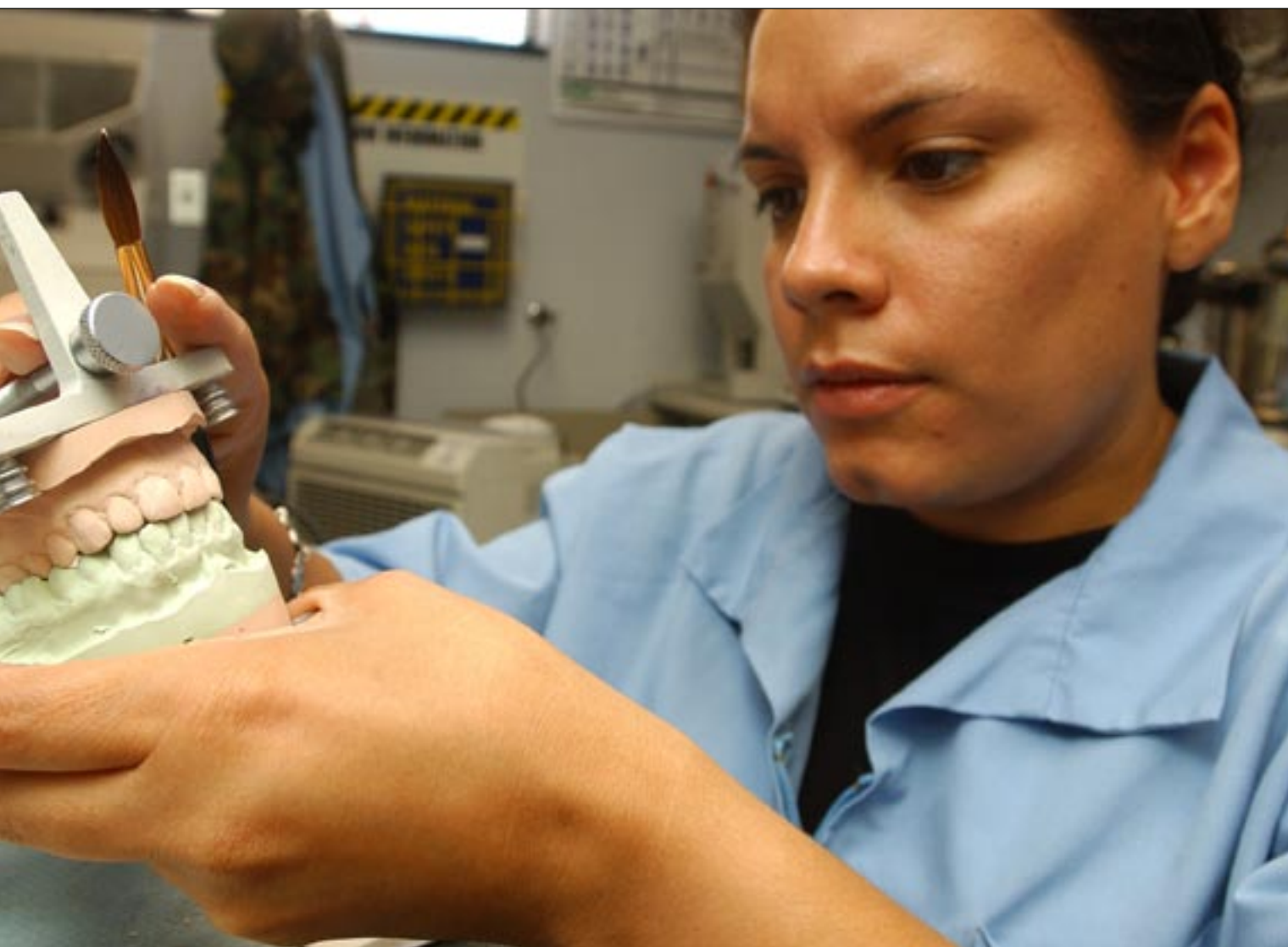
- The bristles of toothbrushes were originally made from the hair of hogs and cows.

- Each person's set of teeth is unique, much like their fingerprints, even in identical twins. (Information from <http://www.bracesinfo.com> and www.msnbc.com)



Above and right: Just like an artist that paints portraits and landscapes, Sergeant Olivio and other lab technicians use a variety of brushes and applicators.

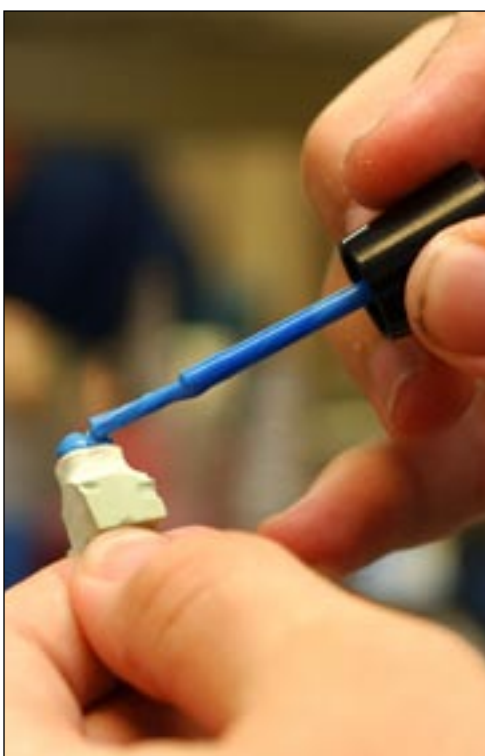




Above: Staff Sgt. Violeta Olivio makes a set of teeth “bite” together to make sure a crown works well on a set of fake teeth so it later fits the patient’s real teeth. Sergeant Olivio is the NCO in charge of dental laboratory services at the Aviano Dental Clinic here. She creates molds, crowns and other devices for people’s smiles.



The lab is full of tools and equipment needed for the job. Airmen there must use their technical knowledge as well as sharp attention to detail.



Left: Sergeant Olivio applies porcelain with a paint brush to a metal coping, all the while trying to make the porcelain crown look like the patient’s natural teeth. The crown is, basically, an artificial tooth.

**Photos by Airman
1st Class Scherrie
Gates**

Week in Photos

What do you call gas masks and paint, lasers and midnight madness, or a boy in a cape, crazy fun mixed with hard work? A typical week at Aviano, of course!



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

Combat Proud

Airmen from the 31st Communications Squadron paint a tower on the flightline here during Combat Proud day July 15. Combat Proud is a U.S. Air Forces in Europe Combat and Special Interest program created by Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander. The program is dedicated to improving the appearance of base facilities and work centers. Airmen painted, cleaned, swept and organized various locations throughout the base.



Airman 1st Class Scherrie K. Gates

Ready to fight fire

Staff Sgt. John Serrato, left, and Airman 1st Class Jason Culver, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, apply the appropriate protective gear prior to entering a simulated burning building during a Phase II Exercise here Wednesday. The exercise tested 31st Fighter Wing Airmen on their war-fighting skills.



Senior Airman Nichole Adamowicz

Got laser?

Two Aviano warriors (one as Darth Vader and the other as Obi Wan Kenobi) duke it out in a re-enactment of intergalactic warfare just before the grand opening of the Aviano Mass Briefing facility here July 15. The facility, which is also a movie theater, premiered *Star Wars III: Return of the Sith* as the first movie ever presented there. Star War characters weren't the only thing present at the opening: people, food, entertainment and a giant jumping castle were on site, too.



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

Past bedtime

Avid *Harry Potter* fans, Caitlyn and Joey Jordan, anxiously await the stroke of midnight for the latest book in the adventure series to go on sale at the Aviano Bookmark July 15. Readers of all ages - some wearing the signature glasses - stayed up late to get a copy of the book.

Marquee malfunction

The electronic marquee in Area One is inoperative and under repair until further notice. Team Aviano may send information to vigileer@aviano.af.mil or zfm@aviano.af.mil to get information out to the community in the Vigileer or on AFN.

Medical conference

The 31st Medical Group Resource Management Office is hosting the U.S. Air Forces Europe resource managers conference through Monday. For urgent needs, send e-mail to 31MDG/RMO@aviano.af.mil or leave a voice message at Ext. 5523.

Auto Skills Center

Aviano Auto Skills will be closed today through July 31. The center will reopen Aug. 1 at the new location in the Flightline Area, Bldg. 1464, behind Outdoor Recreation.

Pavement painting

The parking lots of the

Aviano Health and Wellness Center, old movie theater, bank area, the Dragon Fitness Center, flight medicine, Pass and ID, 31st Communications Squadron and the Italian Air Force command section will be coned off in sections for painting today. For more information, call Ext. 6018.

La Leche League

The La Leche League of Aviano meets 10 a.m. August 8 in the Chapel Education Center, Area One Bldg. 168. The group welcomes pregnant and breast feeding mothers for an informal discussion on avoiding difficulties and breast feeding. For more information, call 0434-75-5606 or 348-242-5373 or e-mail LLAviano@yahoo.com.

Online tuition

Effective Aug. 8 to 22, military students must use the On-Line Tuition Assistance Program. On-Line Tuition Assistance can be accessed through the Air Force Portal. Once in the

Air Force Portal, students must go into "Careers" and open the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC). The Aviano Education Office needs all military personnel to ensure they have an Air Force Portal Account before registration begins. Call Ext. 5330 for more information.

Donations

Donations to the Aviano Thrift Shop must be dropped off at the shop during open hours only. Items cannot be dropped off in front of the building — doing so violates base security regulations. The shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If necessary, call Ext. 5428 during duty hours to schedule an "off-day" appointment.

Munition inventory

To comply with annual inventory requirements, the 31st Maintenance Squadron munitions flight is conducting a closed warehouse inventory Aug. 1-12. The inventory takes place in the storage area and the flight line. Only emergency requests submitted in writing and approved by the group commander or equivalent will be approved. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Steve Metcalf or Tech. Sgt. Robert Bower at Ext. 7419.

Child development

Learn more about child development and behavior, discipline, ages and stages with parent classes. Meet with other parents of children aged 2 to 12 years for support and networking. Class meets in four sessions 6:30 to 8 p.m. Aug 9, 16, 23 and 30 in Bldg. 108, at Area One. Call Family Advocacy at Ext. 5667 to sign up.

Housing inprocessing

All new natural gas and gasolio customers must have a valid and stamped housing contract. Gasolio customers need to allow

seven to 10 days for delivery. Natural gas customers must bring the meter serial number, meter reading and allow two weeks for the gas to be turned on. To expedite gasolio deliveries and natural gas connections, customers are reminded to stop by Home Fuels before noon. Any questions or concerns may be addressed at the Home Fuels office at Ext. 5083.

Dental exams

Pediatric dental exams at the Base Chapel Annex are suspended during the months of July, August, and September. Appointments can still be made by calling the dental clinic at Ext. 5060.

Free child care

Aviano community members ready to PCS or who have just arrived with a child at least 1 year of age are entitled to free childcare. The Childcare for PCS Certificate is good for 60 days prior to leaving and 60 days after arriving at a new duty station. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

Girl Scouts

The Aviano Girl Scouts are holding a new volunteer orientation meeting 4:30 p.m. July 27 at the Girl Scout Hut. For more information, call Val Hodgson at 0434 76 8521. This orientation is for anyone interested in helping with Girl Scouts.

Aviano Thrift Shop

The Aviano Thrift Shop is under new leadership and seeks motivated volunteers to build up this community organization. Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items, stock shelves, and assist customers with donations and consignments. Experience is not required. High school volunteers are welcomed; hours can be used for both school and scholarship applications. The shop is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call Ext. 5428 during open hours for more information.

Reel Times

Today, 2 p.m., 5 p.m. - "Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith" Rated PG-13 - Chancellor Palpatine with Anakin Skywalker's help, begins to turn the Republic into the Galactic Empire. Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayden Christensen

Today, 8:30 p.m. - "The Longest Yard" Rated PG-13 - A has-been football star lands in jail and finds himself assigned the task of assembling a team of convicts for a football game against the guards. Starring: Adam Sandler, Chris Rock

Saturday, 2 p.m., 5 p.m. - "War of the Worlds" Rated PG-13 - A small town is shaken violently by the arrival of destructive intruders: Martians which have come en masse to destroy Earth. Starring: Tom Cruise, Miranda Otto

Saturday, 8 p.m. - "Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith"

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "The Longest Yard" Rated PG-13

Monday, 2 p.m., 7 p.m. - "War of the Worlds"

Tuesday, 7 p.m. - "Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith"

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "House of Wax" - Rated R - A group of friends fall prey to a pair of murderous brothers in an abandoned town. Starring: Elisha Cuthbert, Paris Hilton

Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - "Brother Bear" Rated G - A young Inuit hunter seeks vengeance against a bear, only to be magically changed into a bear himself. Animated. (Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Antique markets

Local Italian villages hold regularly scheduled antique markets. The following schedule identifies the market day for area villages: first Sunday of the month - Aviano, Casarsa, Codroipo, San Quirino; second Sunday - Asolo, Montepulciano, Portobuffole, Florence, Montegrotto, Sacile, Noale, Villafranca, and Udine; third Sunday - Este, Godega Sant'Urbana, Montebelluna, Fontanellato, Padova, Badoere, Siena, Soave and Trieste.

Travel Web site

Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. Maintained by the U.S. Department of State, the Web site offers a list of places suspected of anti-American activity, as well as other information for travelers. Call the Office of Special Investigation at Ext. 7643 with questions about the site or other antiterrorism force protection measures.

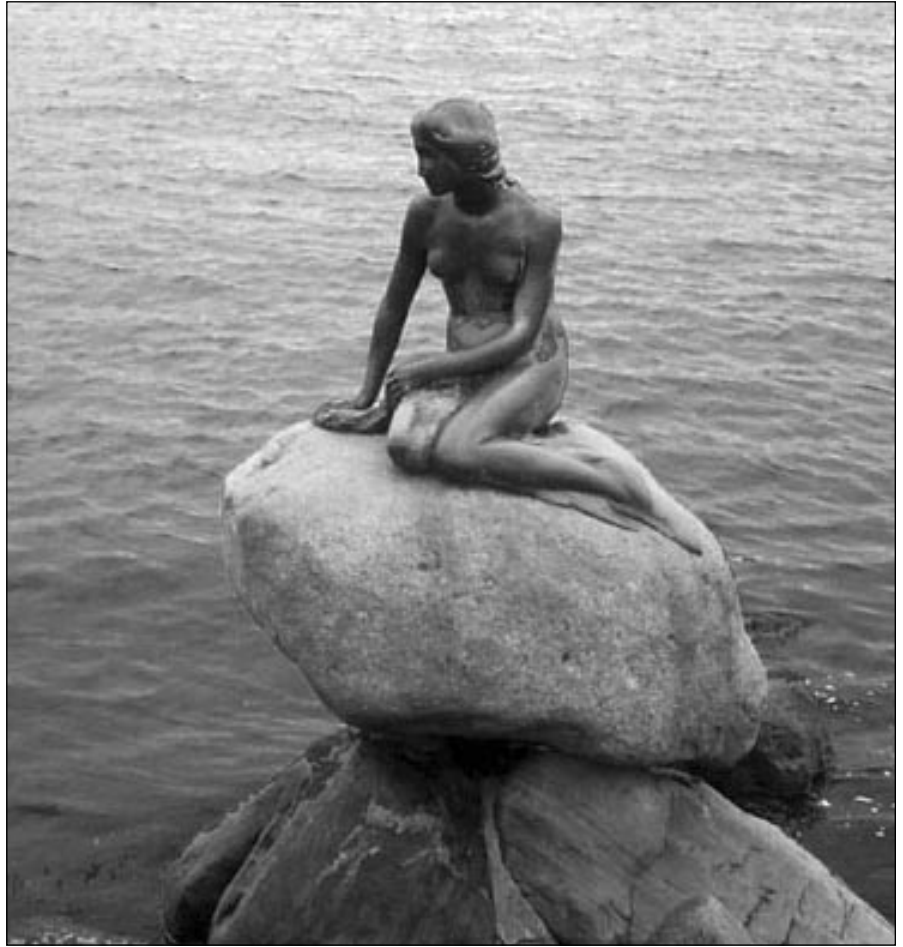
Experience Europe

The Information Tickets and Travel office offers group and customized tour packages for one-day trips, express travel, overnight and morale tours, sight-seeing and shopping trips. The office can arrange travel and reservations for squadron and private tours as well as daily and weekly tours. For more information, call Ext. 5072.

Traveling reminders

People traveling around Europe are encouraged to remember the following:

- Don't wear clothes that easily identify you as American, such as those displaying the flag, American colleges or sports teams.
- Avoid talking about religion or politics with strangers. If a person ever approaches you with the intent to start such a discussion, ignore him or her and walk away.



File photo

Name this vacation location

Ariel, she's not. This sculpture is only about four feet high, but is one of this city and country's biggest tourist attraction. The sculpture was put up in 1913 and has since been the symbol of this country. More than one million people visit her every year. With a human top and a fish tail, this mermaid sits on top of a rock. It is said she is in her true element when the waves hit her rock. People have fun speculating what she's thinking about: maybe about leaving the sea to find her prince and an immortal soul? Be the sixth person to send the correct city and country that is home to the Little Mermaid to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Congratulations to Susan Patton, Aviano EDIS, for correctly naming Prague, the Czech Republic, as last week's Vacation Location.

Air Force travel online: Visit www.aftravelonline.com for information on airplane and train tickets and hotel reservations.



File photo

Tower of London, England is home to legendary ravens. Some say England will be destroyed if the ravens ever leave.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Opera La Boheme in the Verona Amphitheatre.
- July 30-31 - Weekend in a castle
- July 30 - Verona and Medieval Times
- Aug. 6 - Guided Vienna

- Aug. 6 - Guided Venice and gondola ride

The ITT escort will ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. He or she will provide general information about the area, as well. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026, for more information.

A touch of home ...

Just might be closer than you think

By Capt. Eric Elliott
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Summer is almost half way done. It's time to stop procrastinating and get out and visit Europe.

Let's start in London, the city of kings and queens, Chuck and Camellia, Shakespeare and Dickens, Mary Poppins, Oliver Twist and Rumple.

London may seem an odd choice for a first stop because it's almost literally on the other side of Europe from Aviano. However there are some definite arguments in its favor. First, thanks to the flood of new low cost airlines, it's easy and inexpensive to get there from here. Just surf the web a bit and you're sure to find a good deal. Don't worry if the flight goes into Gatwick, Stansted or another of the smaller airports. The city is just a short train ride away.

Second, culturally, the United Kingdom is about as close as you can get to the United States without crossing the pond.

Finally, and most importantly, the language spoken there is mostly understandable, especially in the written form, to the average American. While the spoken word may be a little more challenging to master, the kind and patient British usually speak slow and loud enough that even the most novice Yankee visitor can understand.

As you visit, keep a few tips in mind: Mind the gap as you alight from carriages; look to the right when you cross the street; say hello and thank you to merchants and bus drivers; walk on the left side of the sidewalk; place trash in the rubbish; Remember prices are not in dollars – always multiply by two.

Although people may have lived in the area for more than 3,000 years, thanks to fires, Roman, Saxon and Norman conquests, civil war, Victorian urban renewal projects and the Blitz,

not much is left of the old city. Two notable exceptions are the Tower of London and Westminster Abby and both are required stops in any visit to London.

The Tower of London began as a set of fortifications built by the conquering William and his Normans 1,000 years ago. Since that time, the Tower has earned an evil reputation as a prison, a torture chamber and a site for royal executions. True, the list of inmates is legendary, torture was practiced there and seven royal victims were, in the words of Queen Elizabeth, made shorter by the head there but the Tower is much more. It was London's primary defense against attack from the sea. It was a royal palace, national treasury armory and even a zoo.

However, keep a few things in mind when you go to buy the tickets: everything in London is expensive; this can be your contribution to the financial well being of the royal family; It's probably a once in a lifetime experience and definitely worth the cost.

Near the Tower, you can also visit the Tower Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral and the WWII Cruiser HMS Belfast. You can also walk along the Strand, the historical thoroughfare that led through the heart of the city.

Up the Thames, on the other side of the city, near Big Ben and Parliament, you'll find Westminster Abby. This 800 year old gothic structure is part cathedral and part cemetery. It's where nearly every English Monarch has been crowned. It's also where many of them, as well as the Unknown Warrior and thousands of other notable British such as Charles Dickens, Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Laurence Olivier and a 152 year-old man, are entombed.

After these two required stops, the itinerary is up to you. Watch the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace and walk through Hyde Park. Enjoy the sites and the atmosphere.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

